

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

7 DEC 1987

REPLY TO: 6W-SU

Mr. Larry R. Soward
Executive Director
Texas Water Commission
P.O. Box 13097, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

RE: Aquifer Exemption Request, Everest Exploration, Inc.
Gruy-7B Mining Project, Permit No. UR02914-001, Jim Hogg County

Dear Mr. Soward:

I am pleased to inform you of the Environmental Protection Agency draft approval of your request to exempt a portion of the Oakville Formation from the Underground Injection Control program requirements that no fluid may be injected into an Underground Source of Drinking Water. This draft approval is based upon the criteria stipulated in 40 CFR 144.7(b), 145.32, and 146.4 containing regulations allowing an aquifer to be exempted if: (a) it is not currently used as a drinking water supply, and (b) it cannot be used as a drinking water source in the future because it is mineral producing or can be shown by a permit applicant to contain minerals that are expected to be commercially producible. We request that Everest Exploration, Incorporated, send us confirmation that the public notice has been announced. Upon the completion of the public notice period, a final determination will be made regarding the exemption. This exemption will allow injection for in-situ uranium mining only.

The draft approved exempted portion of the aquifer underlies the Everest Exploration, Incorporated, Gruy-7B Mining Site, in Jim Hogg County and is limited to the Oakville Formation. A detailed description of the exempted portion of the aquifer remains in the exemption request and subsequent comment letters.

If you have any questions concerning this approval, please contact me or have your staff contact Stephanie Johnson at (214) 655-7160. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Myron O. Knudson

6W-SU:JOHNSON:ra:12/2/87:Disk SJ6/56:FILE CODE: WAT 12-2-5-4

Myron O. Knudson, P.E.

Director

Water Management Division (6W)

SYMBOL	bcc: Mike Hebert, 6W-SU				
SURNAME	cc: Charles J. Greene, TWC				
DATE	Dale Kohler, TWC				
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